

Abstract

A marking device for encoding metallic workpieces (14) with two-dimensional matrix codes is proposed which possesses a striking tool (12) for forming the code recesses which can be driven by an electromagnet arrangement (11). The driving movement is performed against the force of a return device (13). A positioning device displaceable in the two axes (x, y) vertically to the striking direction (z) is used for positioning the striking tool (12) in the desired code positions. An electronic control device (16) for moving the striking tool (12) possesses means for presetting a higher current for the electromagnet arrangement (11) during a first acceleration phase of the striking tool (12) and a lower current during the subsequent moving phase until the workpiece (14) is impinged on. In this manner, the precision of the code recesses in the workpiece (14) can be exactly set or maintained, respectively, so that readability of the coding is substantially improved.